

The Potential Hazard of Kudzu Destroying Missouri Habitats

1 WHEREAS The Kudzu plant is a Japanese ground cover that has been growing out of
2 control from the eastern coastal states to the western states of the U.S. and kills any native
3 plant life that gets in its way;

4 AND WHEREAS this invasive species can grow rapidly, and is able to grow up to one foot
5 per day;

6 AND WHEREAS kudzu has already taken over much of the east coast's vegetation and is
7 growing out of control and is drawing dangerously close to becoming a problem in
8 Missouri;

9 AND WHEREAS kudzu is a non-parasitic but invasive species of flora that could
10 potentially take over Missouri's native vegetation;

11 AND WHEREAS Missouri has many different natural habitats that native wildlife depend
12 upon to survive;

13 AND WHEREAS kudzu is a threat to the natural habitat of native plants and animals of
14 Missouri;

15 AND WHEREAS Kudzu kills or degrades other plants by suffocating them under a solid
16 blanket of leaves, by girdling woody stems and tree trunks, and by breaking branches or
17 uprooting entire trees and shrubs through the sheer force of its weight;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri
19 assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011
20 understands that kudzu is a potential threat to the natural habitats of wildlife in Missouri.

21 CFM recommends the Missouri Department of Conservation, Department of Natural
22 Resources, and Department of Agriculture create a plan of action before this invasive
23 species overwhelms the native flora of Missouri.

24 RESOLUTION SUMMARY -- CFM recommends that a plan of action should be put in
25 place before kudzu invades Missouri's natural habitats and threatens their diversity and
26 native wildlife.